Comments

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on July 17, 2002. At the time the Examiner mailed the Office action claims 1 through 52 were pending. By way of the present response the Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 6, 8 through 12, 24, 26, 27, 31, and 33 through 52. No claims have been added or canceled. As such, claims 1 through 52 remain pending. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application and the allowance of claims 1 through 52.

Independent claims 1, 12, 26, 37, 51, and 52 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious in light of the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,135 B1 (hereinafter, "Niblett") and U.S. Patent No. 5,940,075 (hereinafter, "Mutschler"). In response, the Applicant has included additional language to further clarify the claimed subject matter of these claims. In particular claims 1, 26 and 51 have been amended so as to further recite:

said definition defining a fixed aspect of a user environment,
said state change describing a change in a non-fixed aspect
of said user environment, said command being a directive
that causes a function to be performed

and, claims 12, 37 and 52 have been amended so as to further recite:

said definition defining a fixed aspect of a said application
software program, said state change describing a change in a

non-fixed aspect of said application software program, said command being a directive that causes said remote device to perform said act.

Note that these amendments do not add new matter as support for these claims amendments may at least be found in the Applicant's specification at: 1) Page13, line 17 through page 15, line 15; 2) Page 17, line 4 through Page 20, line 15; and, 3) Page 20, line 16 through page 24, line 20.

As the combination of Niblett and Mutschler fails to teach or suggest the above cited subject matter, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application and the allowance of claims 1 through 52.
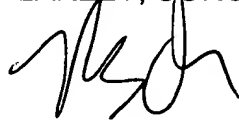
Applicants respectfully submit the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Robert O'Rourke at (408) 720-8300.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date:_____10/16/02_____

_____
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CLAIM CHANGES SHOWING AMENDMENTS

The enclosed list is a list of all pending claims including those that have not been amended by way of the present Office Action response.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 6, 8 through 12, 24, 26, 27, 31, 33 through 52 as follows.

1. (once amended) A method, comprising:

   a) receiving a message that was sent from a remote device, said message comprising either a definition, a state change, a command or some combination thereof, said definition defining a fixed aspect of a user environment, said state change describing a change in a non-fixed aspect of said user environment, said command being a directive that causes a function to be performed; and,

   [b) processing said definition (if any) before said state change (if any); and

   c) processing said state change (if any) before processing said command (if any)]

   b) processing said definition if said message included said definition, said processing of said definition occurring before:

   > said state change is processed, if said message included said state change
   > and before
   > said command is processed, if said message included said command

processing said state change if said message included said state change, said processing of said state change occurring before:

said command is processed, if said message included said command

and

processing said command if said message included said command.

2. (once amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said command [(if any)] further comprises an express command.

3. (unchanged) The method of claim 2 wherein said express command corresponds to a clicking a mouse button.

4. (unchanged) The method of claim 2 wherein said express command corresponds to hitting an enter key.

5. (unchanged) The method of claim 2 wherein said express command corresponds to selecting an option from a menu.

6. (once amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said command [(if any)] is an instruction command.

7. (unchanged) The method of claim 6 wherein said instruction command corresponds to getting a form.

8. (once amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said state change [(if any)] corresponds to a new value in a form.

9. (once amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said definition [(if any)] corresponds to the definition of a form.

10. (once amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said processing said definition [(if any)] further comprises updating a definition record associated with a GUI understanding with said definition [(if any)].

11. (once amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said processing said state change [(if any)] further comprises updating a state record associated with a GUI understanding with said state change [(if any)].

12. (once amended) A method executed by a local device that cooperatively operates with a remote device in order to implement an application software program, said device separated from said remote device by a network, said method comprising:

a) recognizing that a dependence on said remote device exists, said dependence being a need for said remote device to perform some act, said act allowing said application software program to continue to operate; and

b) sending a message to said remote device, said message comprising either a definition, a state change, a command or some combination thereof, said

definition defining a fixed aspect of a said application software program, said
state change describing a change in a non-fixed aspect of said application
software program, said command being a directive that causes said remote
device to perform said act.

13. (unchanged) The method of claim 12 wherein said command (if any) further
comprises an express command.

14. (unchanged) The method of claim 13 wherein said express command
corresponds to a clicking a mouse button.

15. (unchanged) The method of claim 13 wherein said express command
corresponds to hitting an enter key.

16. (unchanged) The method of claim 13 wherein said express command
corresponds to selecting an option from a menu.

17. (unchanged) The method of claim 12 wherein said command (if any) is an
instruction command.

18. (unchanged) The method of claim 17 wherein said instruction command
corresponds to getting a form.

19. (unchanged) The method of claim 12 wherein said state change (if any) corresponds to a new value in a form.

20. (unchanged) The method of claim 12 wherein said definition (if any) corresponds to the definition of a form.

21. (unchanged) The method of claim 12 further comprising updating a GUI understanding by processing said definition (if any) before processing said state change (if any).

22. (unchanged) The method of claim 21 wherein said processing said definition (if any) further comprises updating a definition record associated with said GUI understanding with said definition (if any).

23. (unchanged) The method of claim 21 wherein said processing said state change (if any) further comprises updating a state record associated with said GUI understanding with said state change (if any).

24. (once amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising:
   a) receiving an acknowledgement message from said remote device, said acknowledgement message comprising either a second definition, a second state change, a second command or some combination thereof; and

b) processing said second definition (if any) before said second state change (if any) and before said second command (if any); and

c) processing said second state change (if any) before processing said second command (if any).

25. The method of claim 24 further comprising translating said definition (if any), said state change (if any) and said command (if any) to a GUI.

26. (once amended) A device having a processor and a memory coupled to the processor, the memory having stored therein sequences of instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the acts of:

a) receiving a message that was sent from a remote device, said message comprising either a definition, a state change, a command or some combination thereof, said definition defining a fixed aspect of a user environment, said state change describing a change in a non-fixed aspect of said user environment, said command being a directive that causes a function to be performed; and,;

[b) processing said definition (if any) before said state change (if any); and

c) processing said state change (if any) before processing said command (if any).]

b) processing said definition if said message included said definition, said processing of said definition occurring before:

said state change is processed, if said message included said state

change

and before

said command is processed, if said message included said

command

processing said state change if said message included said state change,

said processing of said state change occurring before:

said command is processed, if said message included said

command

and

processing said command if said message included said command

27. (once amended) The device of claim 26 wherein said command [(if any)]

further comprises an express command.

28. The device of claim 27 wherein said express command corresponds to a

clicking a mouse button.

29. The device of claim 27 wherein said express command corresponds to

hitting an enter key.

30. The device of claim 27 wherein said express command corresponds to

selecting an option from a menu.

31. (once amended) The device of claim 26 wherein said command [(if any)] is an instruction command.

32. The device of claim 31 wherein said instruction command corresponds to getting a form.

33. (once amended) The device of claim 26 wherein said state change [(if any)] corresponds to a new value in a form.

34. (once amended) The device of claim 26 wherein said definition [(if any)] corresponds to the definition of a form.

35. (once amended) The device of claim 26 wherein said processing said definition [(if any)] further comprises updating a definition record associated with a GUI understanding with said definition [(if any)].

36. (once amended) The device of claim 26 wherein said processing said state change [(if any)] further comprises updating a state record associated with a GUI understanding with said state change [(if any)].

37. (once amended) A local device that cooperatively operates with a remote device in order to implement an application software program, said device separated from said remote device by a network, said device having a processor and a memory coupled to the processor, the memory having

stored therein sequences of instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the acts of:

a) recognizing that a dependence on said remote device exists, said dependence being a need for said remote device to perform some act, said act allowing said application software program to continue to operate; and

b) sending a message to said remote device, said message comprising either a definition, a state change, a command or some combination thereof, said definition defining a fixed aspect of a said application software program, said state change describing a change in a non-fixed aspect of said application software program, said command being a directive that causes said remote device to perform said act.

38. (once amended) The local device of claim 37 wherein said command (if any) further comprises an express command.

39. (once amended) The local device of claim 38 wherein said express command corresponds to a clicking a mouse button.

40. (once amended) The local device of claim 38 wherein said express command corresponds to hitting an enter key

41. (once amended) The local device of claim 38 wherein said express command corresponds to selecting an option from a menu.

42. (once amended) The local device of claim 37 wherein said command (if any) is an instruction command.

43. (once amended) The local device of claim 42 wherein said instruction command corresponds to getting a form.

44. (once amended) The local device of claim 37 wherein said state change (if any) corresponds to a new value in a form.

45. (once amended) The local device of claim 37 wherein said definition (if any) corresponds to the definition of a form.

46. (once amended) The local device of claim 37 further comprising updating a GUI understanding by processing said definition (if any) before processing said state change (if any).

47. (once amended) The local device of claim 46 wherein said processing said definition (if any) further comprises updating a definition record associated with said GUI understanding with said definition (if any).

48. (once amended) The local device of claim 37 wherein said processing said state change (if any) further comprises updating a state record associated with said GUI understanding with said state change (if any).

49. (once amended) The <u>local</u> device of claim 37 wherein said sequence of instructions further cause the processor to implement the steps of:

a) receiving an acknowledgement message from said remote device, said acknowledgement message comprising either a second definition, a second state change, a second command or some combination thereof; and

b) processing said second definition (if any) before said second state change (if any)<u> and before said second command (if any)</u>; and

c) processing said second state change (if any) before processing said second command (if any).

50. (once amended) The <u>local</u> device of claim 49 further comprising translating said definition (if any), said state change (if any) and said command (if any) to a GUI.

51. (once amended) A machine readable medium having stored thereon sequences of instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform [the acts of]<u>a method, said method comprising</u>:

a) receiving a message <u>that was sent</u> from a remote device, said message comprising either a definition, a state change, a command or some combination thereof<u>, said definition defining a fixed aspect of a user environment, said state change describing a change in a non-</u>

fixed aspect of said user environment, said command being a directive

that causes a function to be performed; and,;;

[b)] processing said definition (if any) before said state change (if any);

and

c)   processing said state change (if any) before processing said

command (if any)]

b)   processing said definition if said message included said definition,

said processing of said definition occurring before:

      said state change is processed, if said message included said state

      change

      and before

      said command is processed, if said message included said

      command

processing said state change if said message included said state change,

said processing of said state change occurring before:

      said command is processed, if said message included said

      command

and

processing said command if said message included said command.

52. (once amended) A machine readable medium to be executed by a local

device that cooperatively operates with a remote device in order to implement

an application software program, said device separated from said remote

device by a network, said machine readable medium having stored thereon

sequences of instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause the

processor to perform the acts of:

a) recognizing that a dependence on said remote device exists, said

dependence being a need for said remote device to perform some act,

said act allowing said application software program to continue to

operate; and

b)   sending a message to said remote device, said message comprising

either a definition, a state change, a command or some combination

thereof, said definition defining a fixed aspect of a said application

software program, said state change describing a change in a non-fixed

aspect of said application software program, said command being a

directive that causes said remote device to perform said act.